

Dr. Linda B. Smith is a Chancellor's Professor and Distinguished Professor of Psychological and Brain Science, and of Cognitive Science, at Indiana University – Bloomington. She received her B.S from the University of Wisconsin (Madison) in 1973 her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in 1977. Smith joined the faculty at Indiana in 1977. She won the 1985 APA Early Career Contribution in development for her work on developmental changes in perception and attention. She is a Fellow of the Society of Experimental Psychologists, the American Psychological Society, the Cognitive Science Society, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She is the 13th recipient of the thirteenth David E. Rumelhart Prize, awarded in Berlin Germany in 2013.

She has chaired the Psychological and Brain Science Department at Indiana University, served on multiple advisory committees concerned with the future directions of science for the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health, served on the governing boards of the Cognitive Science Society and the International Conference on Development and Learning. Her research has been federally funded since 1978 by the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. Taking a complex systems view, Smith's research seeks to understand the mechanisms of change that enable infants to break into language and learn their first words. Her work on how perceptual and motor developments set the stage for early word learning has provided new insights into typical pathways of development as well as new approaches to interventions for children developing language slowly. The research findings have also helped developing robots learn words –like infants -- from their interactions with people.